

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Two-phase filtering for a firewall is disclosed. In the first, general phase, a request is filtered to verify one or more of: that the request is pursuant to a supported protocol, that a command of the request is allowed, that the length of the request does not exceed the allowed maximum for the command, and that characters of the request are of an allowable type. Upon first-phase verification, a second phase is invoked that is particular to the protocol of the request. In the second, specialized phase, the request is filtered to verify one or more of the source, the destination, and the content of the request. Upon second-phase verification, the request is allowed to pass. If either first- or second-phase verification fails, then the request is denied.

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 in an envelope addressed to The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on Feb 28, 2000, by Michael Dryja, and having "express mail" mailing label no. EJ243665079US.

Signature of Michael Dryja